

**From:** Allie Dunn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 August 2025 4:39 pm  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Response to request for information re Rates Invoice Justification and Related Documents

Kia ora

I refer to your official information request dated 8 August 2025 seeking information about the Council's setting of rates for the 2024-25 financial year.

Our responses to your information requests are outlined below.

*1) The Rating Impact Statement for the 2024-25 rating year*

Please refer to Parts 1 and 2 of the Long Term Plan 2024-34 (page 66 onwards) available from our website for the Funding Impact Statements for each of Council's activities:

[https://www.tararua.govt.nz/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0025/170494/TDC-LTP-2024-2034-PART-1-AND-2-110924-digi.pdf](https://www.tararua.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0025/170494/TDC-LTP-2024-2034-PART-1-AND-2-110924-digi.pdf)

*2) The adopted Revenue and Financing Policy application to the 2024-25 year*

Please refer to Part 3 of the Long Term Plan 2024-34 (page 128) available from our website: [https://www.tararua.govt.nz/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0026/170495/TDC-LTP-2024-2034-PART-3-130924-digi.pdf](https://www.tararua.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/170495/TDC-LTP-2024-2034-PART-3-130924-digi.pdf)

*3) The records of meetings where the 2024-25 rates were discussed or adopted*

Please refer to our agendas, minutes and meeting video resource on our website. All of Council's meeting agendas, and the minutes and video recordings of those meetings are available to view online – we have linked the agendas of these meetings below; to view the minutes and other documents related to these meetings please visit our website page: <https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/>

- a) 2024-05-01 - Finance and Performance Committee meeting re adoption of the Consultation Document, the draft Long Term Plan and Supporting Information for consultation:  
[https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/05/FAPCC\\_01052024\\_AGN\\_3977\\_AT\\_EXTRA.PDF](https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/05/FAPCC_01052024_AGN_3977_AT_EXTRA.PDF)
- b) 2024-06-11 – Finance and Performance Committee meeting re hearing of submissions received on Long Term Plan:  
[https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/06/FAPCC\\_11062024\\_AGN\\_3923\\_AT\\_EXTRA.PDF](https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/06/FAPCC_11062024_AGN_3923_AT_EXTRA.PDF)
- c) 2024-06-19 – Finance and Performance Committee meeting re determination on matters raised through submissions on Long Term Plan:  
[https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/06/FAPCC\\_19062024\\_AGN\\_3981\\_AT\\_EXTRA.PDF](https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/06/FAPCC_19062024_AGN_3981_AT_EXTRA.PDF)
- d) 2024-07-23 – Audit and Risk Committee meeting re 2024-34 Long Term Plan:  
[https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/07/ARC\\_23072024\\_AGN\\_3934\\_AT.PDF](https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/07/ARC_23072024_AGN_3934_AT.PDF)
- e) 2024-07-31 - Tararua District Council re adoption of Long Term Plan 2024-34 and Schedule of Fees and Charges: [https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/07/C\\_31072024\\_AGN\\_3963\\_AT.PDF](https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/07/C_31072024_AGN_3963_AT.PDF)
- f) 2024-07-31 - Tararua District Council re rates resolution for the 2024-25 financial year:  
[https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/07/C\\_31072024\\_AGN\\_3963\\_AT.PDF](https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/07/C_31072024_AGN_3963_AT.PDF)
- g) 2024-07-31 – (reconvened on 7 August 2024) Tararua District Council – updated report re adoption of Long Term Plan 2024-34 and Schedule of Fees and Charges:  
[https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/07/C\\_31072024\\_AGN\\_3963\\_AT\\_SUP.PDF](https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/07/C_31072024_AGN_3963_AT_SUP.PDF)

- h) 2024-07-31 – (reconvened on 7 August 2024) Tararua District Council – updated report re rates resolution for the 2024-25 financial year:

[https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/07/C\\_31072024\\_AGN\\_3963\\_AT\\_SUP.PDF](https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/07/C_31072024_AGN_3963_AT_SUP.PDF)

- 4) *Copies of internal reports, memos, or correspondence (including emails) relating to the modelling, calculation, or justification for the rates increase, including cost projections or financial analysis used.*

Please refer to publicly available information which provides information about the rates increases and reasons for these. We have considered your request for provision of any internal information relating to the modelling, calculation or justification for the rates increase including cost projections or financial analysis used, however note that to undertake such a search of the records system we estimate would take a significant number of hours to search for the information, review for relevance, and collate for provision to you. We invite you to consider modifying the scope of this part of your request to reduce the amount of time that it would take to provide this information for you. Alternatively, if you were happy to pay for the officer time required to provide this information, please let us know and we can provide an estimate of the number of hours that would likely be involved, and the amount that we would need to charge to recover the costs of providing this information. Note that the first hour is provided at no charge for responding to LGOIMA requests.

- 5) *Records of any public consultation undertaken in relation to the rates increase, including public submissions received and the Council's response to those submissions*

Public consultation on the draft Long Term Plan 2024-34 took place from 1 May 2024 to 31 May 2024. You can view the information used for the consultation from our webpage:

<https://www.tararua.govt.nz/publications/consultations/previous-consultation/long-term-plan-2024-2034>

A total of 503 submissions were received in response to this consultation. Of these submissions, 39 submitters asked to present their views to Council in person, with some subsequently withdrawing their request to speak. There were 25 submitters that spoke at the hearings held over 11 and 12 June 2025. You can view the submissions online at:

[https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/06/FAPCC\\_11062024\\_ATT\\_3923\\_EXTRA.PDF](https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/06/FAPCC_11062024_ATT_3923_EXTRA.PDF)

A listing of the community engagement and consultation events held are outlined in the report on the agenda of the 11 June 2024 meeting of the Finance and Performance Committee, linked above in (b).

The responses to the matters raised through submissions is recorded in the minutes of the Finance and Performance Committee meeting held 19 June 2024:

[https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/06/FAPCC\\_19062024\\_MIN\\_3981\\_EXTRA.PDF](https://tararua.infocouncil.biz/Open/2024/06/FAPCC_19062024_MIN_3981_EXTRA.PDF)

- 6) *Any legal advice, external or internal, relied upon when setting the rates.*

The Council sets rates in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. Please refer to the statutory requirements section of the report included in the agenda of the Tararua District Council meeting linked above in (h) where these details are set out. The draft Long Term Plan is audited prior to adoption by auditors appointed by the Office of the Auditor General. Refer to the Independent Auditor's report published on page 58 of the Long Term Plan 2024-34:

[https://www.tararua.govt.nz/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0025/170494/TDC-LTP-2024-2034-PART-1-AND-2-110924-digi.pdf](https://www.tararua.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0025/170494/TDC-LTP-2024-2034-PART-1-AND-2-110924-digi.pdf)

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi

**Allie Dunn | Manager Democracy Services | Deputy Electoral Officer**



## Democracy Services | Tararua District Council

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-  Phone: +64 6 3744080 | Mobile: +64 27 3331626
-  Allie.Dunn@Tararua.govt.nz
-  26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke 4930, PO Box 115
-  [www.tararua.govt.nz](http://www.tararua.govt.nz)
-  [www.facebook.com/tararua.govt.nz](https://www.facebook.com/tararua.govt.nz)

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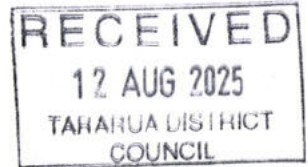
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Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA ) Request

5th August  
28 July 2025



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
To CEO Brian Nicholson, Tararua District Council, c/- 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke

CEO Michael McCartney Horizons Regional Council, c/- Victoria Street, Palmerston North

Dear Sir/Madam

Re LGOIMA REQUEST Rates Invoice Justification and Related Documents.

Pursuant to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) I request the following Information relating to the councils setting of rates for the 2024/2025 financial year:

By way of content when I [REDACTED] purchased my property I observed that rates have increased regularly over time. However, the service provided by the Council in return for these rates are minimal/none with the only questionable service being roading which has been nil over the past 5 years. There appear to be no corresponding improvements of delivery of local services that would justify the extent of the increases let alone any charges and I am concerned about the transparency and fairness of these charges.

Furthermore, the annual rate increases have consistently exceeded the rate of inflation, raising serious concerns about whether these charges are being applied in a fair and economically justified manner. I am therefore requesting as my right the following:

1. The Rating Impact Statement for the 2024/2025 rating year
2. The adopted Revenue and Financing Policy applicable to the 2024/2025 year
3. The minutes and records of all council meetings, workshops or committees where the 2024/2025 rates were discussed or adopted.
4. Any internal reports, memos, or correspondence (including emails) relating to the modelling, calculation, or justification for the rates increase, including cost projections or financial analysis used.
5. Records of any public consultation undertaken in relation to the rates increase, including public submissions received and the council's response to those submissions.
6. Any legal advice, external or internal, relied upon when setting the rates

Please provide the information in electronic form via email to the address listed above. If any part of this request is to be refused under sections 6 or 7 of the LGOIMA, please provide the grounds relied on, and advise me of my rights to complain to the Ombudsman.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

I look forward to your response within 20 working days from this date as required under section 13 of LGOIMA

[REDACTED]